

Serial No.: 10/604,642
Art Unit: 3713

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification numbered 0009, 0011, 0023, 0038, 0041, 0046, 0057, 0058 and 0061 to read as follows:

[0009] Players are required to place their first bet after receiving their poker hand. Additional bets are required, or they loose their first bet. It is at this point that the ~~dealers~~ dealer's qualifying rule places the greatest pressure on the players. Slightly under 50% of the time, the value of a ~~players~~ player's hand dictates folding their hand and giving up their bet. The sub-par value of their hand has no chance of winning additional bets, whether the dealer qualifies or not. When the ~~dealers~~ dealer's hand does qualify, slightly over 50% of the time the player loses all bets.

[0011] Overall, the rules tend to place the player in a no-win situation. A long shot straight flush or better is the ~~players~~ player's best hope to walk away a winner. The average chance of this happening is about 65,000 to one.

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[0023] U.S. Patent No. 5,911,419, issued on June 15, 1999, to Thomas A. Delaney and Bennett M. Wilgard, discloses a method and apparatus for playing ~~bettors~~ bettor's choice draw poker, including rectangular playing areas on a table. The instant invention is distinguishable, in that the hands are ranked differently, and it uses a different betting system.

[0038] All players have an individual betting area, as will be explained below. There is no stress from playing against other players or the dealer. Every ~~players~~ player's hand wins or loses on its own merits.

[0041] This simple game strives to provide players with more of what they are looking for: ~~[[An]]~~ an easy game to understand, designed to help them avoid the stressful pitfalls built into the majority of other new games. Lucrative payouts are reasonably possible.

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[0057] The first preferred embodiment of the present invention is a modified low ball poker game, with a single joker added to a standard deck of 52 cards. In the standard deck the cards have four suits (spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs) and thirteen ranks (Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, and King) with one card of each suit in each rank. ~~Players~~ Player's hands consist of four cards, rather than the standard five card poker hands. The dealer receives no hand. The rank of a hand is determined by the card of the highest rank in the hand (with Ace the lowest rank, and King the highest rank, and the joker counting as an Ace). E.g., if a seven is the highest card in a player's hand, the hand is "seven low". Pairs (two cards of the same rank), three or four of a kind (three or four cards of the same rank), straights (cards in sequential rank) and flushes (cards of the same suit) are ignored in determining rank. This modification of the prior art low ball game (in which only straights and flushes are ignored in ranking hands, but not pairs, or three or four of a kind) increases the number of possible basic low ball hands from nine (5 low, 6 low, 7 low, 8 low, 9 low, 10 low, Jack low, Queen low, and King low) to

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thirteen by the additional possible basic low ball hands of 4 low, 3 low, 2 low, and 1 low (four aces or three aces and the joker).

[0058] In the first preferred embodiment, the game is played on a casino table similar to a blackjack table, with a ~~dealers~~ dealer's area and six designated betting areas to accommodate one to six players. Each ~~players~~ player's betting area will include one large square 10 divided into nine smaller squares 12, numbered 1 through 9, representing 1 low through 9 low, as depicted in FIG. 1. (Each square represents a hand of the same number.) Each square has a numeral 14 in large type in its center, and upper indicia 16 and lower indicia 18 in smaller type. Each large square may be printed on a piece of paper or other movable material, or painted, engraved or otherwise permanently affixed to the surface of the table. Each player must place a minimum of five equal bets in square 5 through square 9. (The bets may be made by placing chips, tokens or actual money on the squares.) Bets in the same equal amount on any one, two, or all three of squares 2, 3 and 4 are optional.

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In addition, each player has the option of placing a fifty cent bet on square 1. (A different fixed amount may be substituted by the house for square 1.) All bets on squares 2 through 9 may be required to be within minimum and maximum limits that may be posted on the casino table.

[0061] The number of the ~~players~~ player's wager displayed in the lower right corner of the screen is initially is "5", and a warning message is displayed in the lower right corner when the ~~players~~ player's credits are not five times a minimum unit. When the adjust wager button is pressed once, the number of the ~~players~~ player's wager displayed is changed to "4", and a warning message is displayed if the ~~players~~ player's credits are not six times a minimum unit. When the adjust wager button is pressed twice, the number of the ~~players~~ player's wager displayed is changed to "3", and a warning message is displayed if the ~~players~~ player's credits are not seven times a minimum unit. When the adjust wager button is pressed thrice, the number of the ~~players~~ player's wager displayed is changed to "2", and a warning message is displayed if the ~~players~~ player's credits are not eight times

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a minimum unit. When the adjust wager button is pressed four times, the number of the ~~players~~ player's wager displayed is changed to "1", and a warning message is displayed if the ~~players~~ player's credits are not nine times a minimum unit. The warning message is removed when the ~~players~~ player's credits have been increased to the required multiple of the minimum unit, by the insertion of currency or coins into said slots. When the deal button is pressed, a warning message is displayed if the ~~players~~ player's credits are less than the required multiple of the minimum unit, else the representations of the cards are displayed in a fourth area of the display screen. If the player has placed a winning bet and the number of the wager is greater than 1, the machine pays the player the minimum unit times the lower number on the rectangle having the number of the wager. If the player has placed a winning bet and the number of the wager is 1, the machine pays the player the jackpot. The jackpot is accumulated by retaining a certain percentage (preferably between 90% to 95%) of all the bets placed on square 1 since the last winning bet on square 1 on that machine. (The house takes the remaining 5% to 10% of the bets.)

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Figures 4 and 5 are added, to appear as shown on the sheets attached to the end of this amendment, to illustrate the steps in the claimed method.